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CHILDREN OF FAR CATHAY.

A SOCIAL AND POLITICAL NOVEL ON

By CHAS. J. HALCOMBE,

Formerly of the Imperial Chinese Customs Service, Author of "The Mystic Flowery Land," etc.

THE VOLUME, which consists of 48 Pages, and includes a Sketch Map of historical interest showing the disposition of the Forces at the battle of Kwellin, is dedicated to Sir ROBERT HART, G.C.M.G., and Dr. A. REYNOLDS. Its description of Chinese Social Customs and Superstitions, combined with the insight it gives into political conditions in China, makes "CHILDREN OF FAR CATHAY" an excellent volume for presentation to friends at home.

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MINING IN CHINA.

An interesting article on the prospects of mining operations in China in consequence of Japan's policy and the possibility of their proving profitable to the investor are discussed in the current issue of the *Mining Magazine*. Four questions are asked—namely, is there adequate evidence of the existence of mineral deposits of sufficient value to offer a substantial hope of exploitation? Do labour conditions and other local factors influencing the cost of operation indicate that mines can be operated at sufficiently low cost? Is there, in the case of the base metals and minor minerals, a reasonable expectation of adequate and growing markets that are safe from capture by imported products? Are the laws and regulations governing the mining industry such that mining operators can expect to conduct their enterprises under satisfactory and stable conditions? Our contemporary, proceeding to discuss these factors in turn, says:—

"That mineral deposits of sufficient richness to justify exploitation exist in China, there is no doubt. In a paper on the 'Mineral Production and Resources of China,' published in the *Transactions of the American Institute of Mining Engineers* four or five years ago, Mr. Thomas T. Read has summarised the then existing knowledge of the mineral deposits of China, and as an engineer qualified by some years' residence in the country, his views are of special value. He showed that coal is so widely distributed throughout China as to be almost everywhere available with comparatively little transport, and that its quality is generally good and in many cases excellent. One large mine of iron ore of good quality has been developed, and there is evidence that other deposits of similar size exist with a presumption that there are many such. Considerable amounts of copper have been produced by native methods in south-western China, though hampered by lack of transport facilities, and a locally scanty fuel supply. The same remark applies to zinc, except that the deposits appear to be of even greater value. In both cases railways, for which the preliminary arrangements have already been made, will afford the needed transport, and will presumably solve the fuel difficulty. The lead deposits are of more problematical value, but offer promise. Nickel deposits have been found, though little definite knowledge relating to them is available. The tin deposits are well known, as they already supply a considerable part of the world's output of that metal. Improved methods of mining would undoubtedly yield considerable profits to an operating company. Silver deposits occur in many places, but so far none of them appear to compare with the world's great silver mines. Gold deposits are found chiefly along the northern and western borders in districts now difficult of access. These also offer much hope of profit under more favourable conditions, which may reasonably be expected to be eventually attained. Altogether it is evident that China is a mining region of great promise."

As to labour, it is generally known that Chinese miners are efficient, as the experience of using them in South Africa fully demonstrates. The rate of wage in China is extremely low, so low, in fact, that it is unprofitable to employ machinery for any operation that hand labour can perform satisfactorily. Lack of transport makes supplies expensive in many districts, but this is generally true of mining as not to need elaboration, and it is obviously difficult to generalise concerning an area of 4,277,000 square miles, part of which is as densely populated as Lancashire, while other parts consist of an almost uninhabited desert. Generally speaking, conditions present no unusually unfavourable features, and the low cost of labour is a great advantage that is certain to continue for a long time. As to markets, conditions are both favourable and unfavourable. China is being remade into a modern country, and therefore presents a modern opening for the use of metals and minerals. But the growing general business of China offers a market for finished products rather than for metals as such. In some cases where the Chinese crude articles can be produced at a profit as compared with that from abroad the foreign finished product does not enjoy any advantage. However, a copper mine may find the metal at a low price per ton, it is the refining and the manufacture of wire that cannot reap the benefit of the growing market in China for electrical equipment. Another factor of particular importance in the steel industry, railways in China are being financed almost entirely with foreign capital. The agreements under which the loans are made in most instances provide that firms of the country in which the loan is floated shall enjoy certain preferential privileges. As a large number of railways are being built with British capital, this would be rather advantageous to a British owned and managed plant, and we are informed that construction of such a plant was arranged, and would have been commenced had it not been for the unfavourable conditions created by the war. China seems, therefore, to offer a better field for large investments and strong groups than smaller enterprises which might not be able to reach the market properly."

"The present laws and mining regulations of China are not conducive to the investment of foreign capital in mineral deposits. Generally speaking, foreign firms can only engage in business in certain restricted areas known as 'treaty ports,' within which they are under the jurisdiction of their own Consuls, and being subject to Chinese laws or paying any taxes which are low. The import duties, which are low, are treated as concluded by the end of the century, and the foreign capital should be free to invest in Chinese mining enterprises. In the years that have since passed several codes of mining regulations have been promulgated, the last

having appeared about a year ago. None of these codes showed evidence of having been prepared by persons gifted with an understanding of any other country, and the restrictions imposed by them made mining investments unattractive to both Chinese and foreigners. *Financial Times*.

CHINESE GENERAL'S CRITICISM OF HIS COUNTRY.

LI YUAN-HUNG'S VIEW OF CHINA'S NEEDS.

A Chinese Itinerant Lecturers' Association, which has its headquarters in Peking, is sending out parties of lecturers to educate the people of China. Vice-President Li Yuan-hung has written a preface to the regulations of the Association, which opens with the following aphorism:—

"If you are intent on a plan for conserving the peace of the Commonwealth, and making up the deficiencies in your own environment, how better can you accomplish this end than by educating the masses, and helping the weak?"

The General proceeds at once to develop this statement.

"Our country," he says, "has up to the present lived in sublime ignorance. Almost before the times of Hsien Fang an Tung Chih the people assumed a self-contained and self-satisfied attitude—the masses, taken up with their rude pleasures have been in total ignorance of what a nation means. And on the face of defects by Japan on the East, humiliation at the hands of France in the South, and the shame inflicted by mighty Russia, the credulous people foolishly went in for Western civilization, adopting customs that had been in existence among foreigners for hundreds of years, but mistaking the husk for the kernel, verily paring the foot to suit the shoe, with the result that there has been evolved a lawless equality, and an unbridled liberty. Blindly they have and have not, having no settled convictions."

CHINESE SELF-EFFICIENCY.

"If you wish to find one man with the sincere patriotism, the fearless public spirit, the military efficiency, or the educational attainments of a foreigner, you will have difficulty in discovering one in a thousand. And even if you were successful in your search, he would not be a person *gratia* to the public. The doctrines of Yao and Shun, Duke Chou and Confucius, the relationship of father and son, husband and wife, those between brothers and friends, and the virtues of fraternal love, honesty, propriety and modesty are regarded as of little consequence; in fact they can all go by the board."

"The tendency today is for the people to descend to the level of brutes and to regard the degeneration of the closing days of the Ching dynasty, but since the establishment of the Republic it has been decidedly the reverse. If individuals degenerate into brutes, what shall be said of the resultant nation?"

FAILURE OF REPUBLICANISM.

From this severe indictment Li Yuan-hung proceeds to show how republicanism has failed to cure the evils from which the country has suffered. "The Republic," he says, "has now been established for three years, and in this period there have been ceaseless internal disorders and foreign complications. The miseries of high and low alike have been without number. Those who are concerned for the approach of the dissolution of the nation without exception ascribe the present state of affairs to the non-extirpation of bandits, the non-return of the refugees, the failure of the national finances, and the failure of all official plans for amelioration. If there is one man of authority who will give a lead, and be followed by his subordinates, will not this be sufficient to save the situation? It seems as though there are no public-spirited men among our illustrious people. There is no calamity more grievous than a heart dead to the public weal, indeed the death of the body is a lesser evil."

IN AN OLD DAYS.

To recognize an evil and not to trace it to its source, is a sign of the General, the reverse of charity. "In fact," he declares, "there were those who itinerated with a bell, and those who went up and down the country recording notable deeds, all for the purpose of removing bad customs and eradicating evils. This plan, however, was inspired by the government, and therefore met with indifferent success. Why? Because the feelings of the people are not only hidden, but difficult to express, and there are practical difficulties in the way of official instruction. The ignorant masses are at a loss to make distinctions between good and evil, and the things that have for long eluded their eyes and ears have hardened into custom."

Yet Li Yuan-hung believes firmly in the people. "As the old adage says," he says, "the natural disposition of the people is in the direction of virtuous excellence," and he feels sure that if proper advantage is taken of their natural bent the people will show their true qualities and go from strength to strength. It is, after so much lamentation, a hopeful view in a period of transition such as the one through which China is passing. *N. Y. Daily News*.

STOLEN IRON CROSS.

ZOUAVE'S NIGHT VISIT TO GERMAN TRENCH.

A French officer has described to a correspondent of the *Telegraph* a daring exploit by a seventeen-year-old Zouave. "I had jokingly said before some of my men," explained the officer, "that I would like to send home a 'souvenir' to my wife. The Zouave had overheard me, and determined to get what I wanted. Next day he came to me and handed me something. I looked at it, and was surprised to find that it was an Iron Cross—a real Iron Cross. I asked the Zouave what it all meant, and he pointed to me in his own French to the effect that he had visited during the night the enemy's trenches, and having seen an Iron Cross pinned on a soldier's chest, he had carefully undone it without awakening the sleeping German. 'Vive votre souvenir, m'capitaine!'"

MALACCA RUBBER PLANTATIONS LTD.

SIXTEEN THOUSAND ACRES UNDER RUBBER.

The Ninth Annual General Meeting was held on the 18th ult. at Winchester House, Old Broad-street, London, Mr. George B. Dodwell, the chairman of the Company, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the colonial expenses in respect of a crop of 2,352,147 lb. of rubber were £180,760, which compared with £182,888 for 3,068,475 lb. in 1913, showing an actual decrease of expenses of £22,108, with an increase in production of 373,721 lb. These figures were extremely satisfactory. The fact that they realised £13,633 less for their crop than in 1913 was, of course, a question of the market. They sold a sensible proportion of their last year's crop at 100 Singapore, and by that means cut out freight and London charges to the amount of about £5,000. That factor was, of course, taken into consideration in the calculations leading to the fixing of prices with buyers, and slightly lower prices were agreed upon than they would presumably have obtained in London. Had the rubber been brought home and sold here, the item "proceeds of crop" would have been increased by £5,000 or thereabouts. But the item "charges on rubber" would have been subject to a corresponding increase. Home expenses totalled £29,000, as against £22,613 last year, but a substantial sum came off the charges on rubber by reason of what he might term the selling machinery which they had adopted as to a proportion of the crop. But even allowing for that, their expenses this end were less than last year, and were now about as low as they could reasonably hope to get them.

NET PROFIT FOR THE YEAR.

The net profit for the year, £144,221, when compared with that for 1913, showed an increase of £19,007, which might be regarded as satisfactory. A most noticeable feature in the balance-sheet was that capital expenditure had come down from £39,717 in 1913 to £25,700 for the year under review. For the present year it would be still further reduced. The Debenture debt was being diminished, and to date Debentures of the value of £43,020 had been wiped out at a cost of £42,549 12s. An amount of £31,000, under the heading of "French taxation," had been deducted from the amount available for distribution. When the shares of the company were placed on the French market in the year 1910, the board were advised by their then Paris agents that certain taxation would be imposed upon the company in respect of the shares circulating in France, but that the amount payable would not be assessed until the completion of three years from the date when the first block of shares was officially introduced upon the Paris Bourse. Deposits were made from time to time until there was a sum of £7,000 in the hands of the agents in Paris. During that month the agents intimated that they were giving up business, and the agency was transferred to their present representatives, the amount of the deposit being handed over to them. In the month of October last the directors heard from Paris that the authorities were engaged in assessing the tax, and their agents suggested that it might run out at more than had been anticipated. That was the first occasion upon which the directors had any hint that there was such a deposit might prove not to be in excess of the amount required. Shortly afterwards their agent advised them that the assessment had been made, and that for five years from 1910 to 1914 inclusive it totalled £31,000. The board's efforts were immediately directed to endeavouring to secure a reduction of the amount, but they were eventually forced to the conclusion that an appeal against the assessment would be a useless expenditure of money.

PRESENT POSITION OF PLANTATIONS.

With regard to the present position of the company's plantations, he might say shortly that things were never so satisfactory in Malacca as they were to-day. The replanting programme indicated to the shareholders at the last meeting was complete, and they had 16,000 acres under rubber. The estates were, speaking generally, in excellent condition, and non-producing areas were coming along well. As to labour, the new scheme which was put into force last year had worked smoothly, and had effected a considerable reduction in their colonial expenses. During the year the problem of thinning out had received the consideration of the management, and a great deal had been done. They were also making experiments with the system of alternate day tapping, which was giving excellent results elsewhere. In conclusion, the chairman said that the past year had proved a very anxious time for those entrusted with the direction of the undertaking, both in the East and in London, and they were glad to be able to feel that the company's affairs were in a condition which suggested strength at the present moment, and a justified high hopes for the future. There was every probability that they would be able to improve upon the present dividend next year.

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR (Mr. Charles Emerson) seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors and auditors were re-elected, a dividend of 17½ per cent. was declared upon the Preference and Ordinary shares, and the following resolution was unanimously agreed to:—That a sum of £1,600 (in addition to the further sum of £1,600 mentioned in article 83) be and hereby is voted to the directors as and for their remuneration for the year 1913, and a like sum for the year 1914, and for each subsequent year, until otherwise decided by the general meeting."

The Board of Trade having considered the report of the Advisory Committee, called the attention of the public to the great importance of restricting the consumption of meat with a view to economising the national supplies and avoiding an excessive increase of price.

INTIMATIONS

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PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions from Dr. MARTIN LOEB to sell by Public Auction,

TO-DAY (TUESDAY),

the 29th June, 1915, at 2.30 P.M., at No. 6, Humphrey's Building, Kowloon, Top Flat,

THE VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD

FURNITURE, ETC., ETC.,

Therein Contained,

Comprising—Chesterfield Sofa and Arm-Chairs (Lane, Crawford & Co. make), Fine Blackwood Cabinets, Stands, etc., Fumed Teak Dining Room Suite, Bookcase, Screens, Case and Door Curtains, etc., Teakwood Twin Bedsteads and Mattresses by Powell (Practically new), Large Wardrobe, Toilet Table, Chest of Drawers, etc., and Handsome Blackwood Washstand, Folding Camp Bed, etc., Pantry and Kitchen Utensils, Piano by Brinsmead & Sons, Remington Typewriter in good condition, Electric Travelling Fans, Fittings and Lights, Sunblinds, Pot Plants, etc.

Several Lots of "The British Medical Journal" (Full Particulars from Catalogue.)

On View from Monday, 28th June.

TERMS:—Cash.

HUGHES & HOUGH, Auctioneers.

Hongkong, 28th June, 1915.

A SNOWBALL BAG SALE.

IN AID OF THE

BELGIANS IN ENGLAND AND IN BELGIUM.

will be held in

THE GROUNDS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

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FRIDAY, JULY 9TH, FROM 4-7 P.M.

UNDER THE Distinguished patronage of

H.E. THE GOVERNOR and Lady May.

H.E. Major General KELLY, C.B., and Mrs. KELLY, His Honour Sir WILLIAM REGES DAVIES and Lady DAVIES, The Commanders and Mrs. ANSTUTTER.

By kind permission of Col. Watson and the Officers, the Band of the 74th Punjabis will play during the afternoon.

Entrances from Lower Albert Road.

Admission 20 Cents. Tea 40 Cents.

Hongkong, 28th June, 1915.

Etude de M^r GIGON-PAPIN,

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En l'étude sise rue Pellerin n° 71, de M^r GIGON-PAPIN, notaire.

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LE VENDREDI 16 JUILLET 1915.

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Caution de 30,000 piastres, par chaque usine, pour être admise aux enchères.

Le matériel flottant sera vendu ultérieurement.

S'adresser, pour tous renseignements, à l'étude de M^r GIGON-PAPIN, notaire, sise à Saigon, rue Pellerin n° 71.

1706

COMPANY MEETING.

GANDE, PRICE AND CO., LTD.

The eighth ordinary annual meeting of the shareholders of Messrs. Gande, Price and Company, Limited, was held at the offices of the company, yesterday. Mr. Chau Kai Ming presided and there were present:—Messrs. S. C. Pank and Lo Po Wing (Directors) Messrs. J. J. Blake, C. Bond (Manager), M. A. Razek and J. H. Osborn.

The manager having read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, the report and accounts for the year ending 1914 having been in your hands for some time, I propose, with your permission, to take them as read. I am pleased to inform you that the net profit for the year is \$10,709.44, which I think should be regarded as very satisfactory considering that our trade receipts fell considerably owing to a general depression in business on account of the present crisis. Our turnover for the year was \$12,467.15 less than the previous year, and seeing that we made a fair profit during these hard times, I think we can safely say that our business is once again in a sound condition. Our decrease in expenditure for the year was \$12,279.51 instead of \$9,495.51 as shown on the Balance Sheet, as a sum \$2,784, allowed for Advertising Account, was inadvertently included in our account for the year 1913, whereas this amount should be shown in the account for 1914. We trust we shall still be able to maintain this reduction during the current year. We have also provided a further sum of \$2,000 in addition to the amounts allowed last year as reserves against bad and doubtful debts at Taipei and Kobe Branches. We are doing our utmost to collect these outstanding debts, but it is a long and tedious business, as a greater part of these accounts is recoverable only by taking strong measures which would entail heavy expenses. Our Steam Launch *Martell* was disposed of during the year under review at a profit of \$484. In conclusion, I think we can congratulate ourselves on the year's working, and I sincerely trust that our next Balance Sheet will be equally as good, if not better than the present one. Our thanks are due to our staff for the assiduity shown during the year. I shall be pleased to answer, to the best of my ability any questions which shareholders may wish to put.

The report and accounts were adopted. Mr. Lau Po Wing, and S. C. Pank were re-elected directors and Messrs. Lowe, Bingham and Mathews as auditors.

A CHINESE LOAN.

At the Summary Court yesterday, Kwong Yuen Cheung, a salesman, of 75, Bonham Road West, sued Ngai Tsing Tin, chief proprietor of the Kum Hing firm of money-changers, 78, Bonham Strand West, for \$739.66, being the amount deposited by the plaintiff with the defendant.

Mr. Gardiner was for plaintiff and Mr. Hung defended.

The plaintiff said the money was lent through her brother and the rate of interest agreed upon was 22 cents per \$1,000 per day. There had been many applications for the repayment of the loan, but up to the date of the issue of the writ nothing had been paid. She alleged that on one occasion when she asked defendant for the money he did not deny owing it and merely replied, "If you cut me open now you would not find any money."

Mr. Hung's defence was that defendant was not chief proprietor of the firm, but Mr. Gardiner contended that even if this were so, the fact that defendant was a partner made him equally liable.

Verdict was given for plaintiff with costs, his lordship describing the demeanour of the witnesses for the defence as being "very bad indeed."

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

DOUBLING THE CAPITAL.

A special general meeting of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has been called for the 30th instant principally for the purpose of considering the proposal to double the capital of the company, raising it from Yen 22,000,000 to Yen 44,000,000, by the issue of 40,000 new shares of Yen 100 each. The new shares will be allotted to the present shareholders on September 30th next, at the rate of one for each old share. Out of the reserve funds in hand, it has been decided to distribute Yen 3,500,000 to the shareholders, of which Yen 5,000,000 will represent payment of the first instalment on the new shares. The remainder will be distributed among the shareholders, and will amount to Yen 6.25 for each old share.—*Japan Chronicle*.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual report of the China Association for the year 1914-15 commences with a brief survey of the political events in China during the interval since the last general meeting. We need not recapitulate this, but we may quote the following remarks on the present situation in China:—

The Republic has justified its existence in a remarkably short space of time. It has re-established the authority of Peking over the Provinces, has to a great extent suppressed disorder, and has inaugurated judicious fiscal reforms on conservative lines, as, for example, in the case of the Salt Gabelle. There is an element of weakness in the present system of government in that it is mainly dependent on one man—the President—but the country may count itself extremely fortunate, while it has been passing through a period of violent upheaval, in having a strong man to direct the course of affairs; a weak leader, even with the best intentions, might easily have landed the whole country in anarchy. China has the good fortune, at this crisis in her affairs, to have a leader who not only knows his own mind, but also knows his fellow countrymen, who has decision of character, and the courage of his opinions.

It is clear, however, that there is a great element of danger in any system of government which is dependent on any one individual, however eminent and capable. Continuity is essential to stability, and it will be a crucial test of statesmanship as to how the foundations of the system that when the President's office becomes vacant his successors may reasonably count upon being loyally supported by the more responsible and patriotic element amongst the people. A state of affairs in which every change of President is likely to give rise to internal strife would be disastrous. A Chinese Administration is now in power after centuries of Manchu rule. Those who are opposed to an autocratic system have plenty of scope for diverting their energy and ability to working for the gradual adoption of constitutional measures, and will be doing much better work for their country than by plotting violent or disruptive schemes.

THE CAPTURE OF KIAOCHOW.

Concerning events connected with the Anglo-Japanese operations against Germany in Shantung the report says:—

This Association being deeply interested in commercial relations with the Far East learned with great satisfaction of the prompt measures taken by the British and Japanese Governments to deal with the German menace in China, and in the Pacific, and welcomes the successful results of the operations. Germany's policy of world-empire evidently did not leave expansion in China out of account; preparations for further development may be seen in the expenditure of Tientsin estimated at \$20,000,000. A capture of this point d'appui has relieved trade in the Far East from the menace of German aggression, but presumably no definite settlement of the somewhat complex situation arising out of Germany's position in China can be arrived at until the terms of peace are arranged.

With regard to the Japanese demands on China, the report states that the Association warmly supports a policy of co-operation with Japan based on the terms of the Anglo-Japanese Treaty, believing that under these conditions the welfare of China and the peace and prosperity of the Far East will be assured.

RAILWAYS.

Mention was made in last year's report of the large number of railway contracts that had been entered into during that period, the most important of which, from a British point of view, was the line from Pukow to Sinyang, giving through connection from Shanghai to Hankow. To these, a still more important line has been added during the present period, viz., a line from Nanking to Nanchang, and thence to Kiangsi Province, and thence westward to connect with the Hankow Canton main line near Changsha, the contract for which was secured by the British and Chinese Corporation. The capital required to build these two lines is estimated at ten or twelve millions sterling, and should result in large orders to British manufacturers.

It being impossible during the war period to finance loans on the London market for the construction of these lines, work has so far been confined to completing the necessary surveys, which is being done under British engineers, the being being defrayed by temporary advances by the contracting companies. Construction, however, is steadily proceeding on the British line from Hankow to Canton, the funds for which were provided by the Hukwang loan of 1911. From Southern part of this line, viz., from Canton City to the point of junction at the Kwangtung-Hankow Border is still in the hands of a native company, and is very slow progress apparently is being made. Unless the Central Government assumes control of this section, and places it in the hands of a foreign administration, several years must elapse before through connection can be established between Hankow and Canton.

Good progress has been made in consolidating the line from Shanghai southward to Ningpo. The local native companies of Kiangsu and Chekiang have both been bought out, and the work of completing the construction has been entrusted to the British and Chinese Corporation. The connecting Railway and this line, which skirts the Foreign Settlements at Shanghai, is now in course of construction.

FINANCE.

Throughout this period of financial stress and difficulty China has paid the interest on her national debt, as well as the sinking fund of the Boxer indemnity. No information is available as to the Treasury Bills, and short term notes outstanding, but liabilities of this nature are in a different category from the recognised national debt. The way in which the Chinese Government has met its obligations throughout the trying period of the last four years is satisfactory evidence of the recuperative power of the country, and inspires confidence in the maintenance of China's long record of national probity.

Under the able management of Sir Richard Dane, the Salt Gabelle is reported to have yielded a net revenue of Tls. 42,000,000, which is more than the revenue received from the Maritime Customs. It is understood that a recognition of the land tax is to be taken in hand at an early date, and when the necessary reforms have been carried out, it is estimated that this source will yield an annual revenue of—close upon \$20,000,000.

As far as information is available to the public the total debt of China approximately amounts to £170,000,000. Which involves an annual charge of about £3,500,000. To which must be added for amortisation of loans £1,500,000.

Making a total of about £50,000,000.

A new departure in finance may be noted in the successful flotation of an internal loan of \$10,000,000; the amount being over-applied for, it was subsequently decided to increase the total to \$24,000,000. A further loan for a similar amount to be issued this year is now under consideration. As evidence of increased confidence of the Chinese people in their Government, and if the Treasury is wise it will carefully protect the interests of the investors. During the year the Central Government redeemed, in Canton, local notes to the extent of \$32,000,000; although these notes were retired at a considerable discount, the general effect of the operation was salutary, especially as it was carried out expeditiously and in a business-like manner. It is estimated that there are still outstanding about \$130,000,000 of provisional notes throughout the country.

Viewed from a European standpoint the liabilities of the Chinese Government, in comparison with the extent and resources of the country, are by no means heavy. These resources are capable of much greater development; the strength of the country lies in the industry and enterprise of the great mass of the population, its weakness in the atmosphere of mistrust and intrigue surrounding its governing classes which has for so long been characteristic of official life.

MINING AND CURRENCY.

It is almost incredible that a people who are so practical in their own private affairs should continue year after year to borrow large amounts and thereby incur an increasing burden of interest, while all the time valuable minerals lie under the soil which would bring in revenue to the Government and provide employment for the people, if only business-like regulations were made for the active encouragement of the mining industry and for the security of capital invested. China must rely upon herself to work out her own salvation, and one of the surest means of accomplishing that end is to develop her resources.

No steps have been taken by the Government to establish a uniform currency throughout the country, but the state of confusion into which the currency in circulation has drifted has brought about a certain amount of improvement of itself.

It is reported that the Government having accepted payment of taxes in depreciated paper money, have withdrawn many of the notes, with the result that a considerable appreciation in the value of the outstanding circulation has taken place. Large quantities of superfluous silver, including subsidiary coinage, have been melted down and converted into specie. The coinage of copper cash is at last said to have been stopped, as the depreciation latterly became so great that there is no longer any profit in coining it. The quantity of copper coins in circulation is still far in excess of the requirements of the people; depreciation of this currency is a heavy burden on the masses, but if the provincial mints remain closed, there will sooner or later be some recovery from the present depression.

VARIOUS QUESTIONS.

The Committee are able to record with great satisfaction the conclusion of negotiations for the long-delayed extension of Shanghai Settlement.

The question of the headquarters of Commercial Attachés in China has for some years been the subject of discussion between the Association and the authorities. In May, 1914, Sir John Jordan, answering a letter from the Shanghai branch, in a lengthy memorandum carefully reviewed and criticised the suggestions made to which, in due course, the Shanghai branch replied. The whole of the correspondence is most interesting, but, being confidential, cannot be included in the appendix. The movement throughout this country in the early months of the war to capture certain trades which had hitherto been in the hands of the Germans was considered by the Committee an opportunity to make certain suggestions to the Foreign Office, having the same end in view in China. Accordingly, as the work and duties of the office had become so multifarious as to be beyond the scope of one Attaché, the Association ventured to recommend the appointment of three assistants, whose headquarters should be at Tientsin, Shanghai, and Canton respectively, the Commercial Attaché himself residing at Peking, and having the services of a Chinese subordinate. In offering these suggestions the Committee emphasised the opinion that a thorough knowledge of the Chinese language and some experience of commercial affairs were indispensable. These recommendations were made in October, and we understand that so far, only one additional appointment has been made.

The attention of the Committee has again been called to the preferential treatment of Japanese goods entering Manchuria via Dairen and Antung. Representations have accordingly been made to the Foreign Office on the subject, and it is satisfactory to note, from information given in reply to a question in the House of Commons on March 10, that the Japanese Government have promised to grant the same privileges to goods from foreign countries as are accorded to Japanese merchandise.

TELEGRAPH RATES.

This question, which arose entirely owing to restrictions found necessary by the war, resulted in considerable correspondence. Perusal of the letter will at once demonstrate that the Committee spared no pains in an endeavour to suggest remedies for the mitigation of restrictions which were handicapping trade with

the Far East. That they were not more successful is regrettable, but must be set down to the experience of the national safety, as conceived by the Censor. And here it may be well to add that at no time did the Committee wish for, or advocate, the removal of a single restriction which, in their opinion, might jeopardise the national welfare. But in suggesting the limited use of private codes, by selected firms, under heavy monetary guarantee, they could foresee no more danger than is to be apprehended from the use of public codes, inasmuch as the cyphers in both public and private codes, and for that matter, plain English words, can be used to convey a meaning not attached to them. However, the Censor could not take that view, and the Committee could only bow to his decision, particularly in view of a hint that further insistence might increase, rather than lessen, existing difficulties.

QUESTIONS CONNECTED WITH THE WAR.

The Committee have addressed the Foreign Office on the question of trading with the enemy, pointing out the discrepancy between the advice given by the Board of Trade to British subjects, that it is undesirable to enter into commercial transactions with enemy subjects in China during the continuance of the war, and the provisions of the Trading with the Enemy Act, under which such transactions are permissible in certain cases. We understand the matter is still under consideration.

British subjects resident in China have every reason to feel proud of the conduct which has come home to join His Majesty's forces. A helping hand from men overseas at this crisis is welcome and deeply appreciated by everyone in the old country, and we congratulate our branches in the Far East on the part they have taken in organising the movement. The Committee have endeavoured to keep in touch with the members of the contingent by registering the units to which they have become attached, and have afforded them what assistance it has been in their power to offer.

In November, last, the Association received from the Central Committee for National Patriotic Organisations an inquiry whether the Committee would assist in the work of instructing public opinion in China regarding the war, particularly by getting one or two of the most important pamphlets issued in England translated into Chinese, and distributed throughout that country. In view of the gross mis-statements circulated by Germans in China regarding the war and the responsibility for it, the Committee considered it most desirable that an authoritative statement should be published stating clearly, and concisely the true facts of the case. Accordingly a pamphlet of some 40 pages, entitled, "The Great War: its origin and the responsibility for it," has been compiled under the auspices of the Association, and has been sent out to Shanghai for translation into Chinese by the Christian Literature Society, and subsequent circulation in China.

BANQUET.

Owing to the Great War it was decided that the annual dinner should not take place, and it was suggested that members who had intended to be present might be glad to pay in their subscriptions to a fund to provide tobacco for the troops, and towards the Legion Chamber of Commerce fund to supply the needs of the Fleet. The fund was an immediate success, and the total of £200 17s. 6d. shows clearly the generous response to the appeal. £25 was contributed to the news paper fund, and 500 lbs. of tobacco and 570,000 cigarettes were sent out to the troops at the front.

THE HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS.

CORPS ORDERS BY LIEUT.-COL. A. CHAPMAN, V.D.

JOINED.

Private P. W. A. Wilkie joined the Corps on 28th inst., allotted Corps No. 1844, and posted to Left Section M. G. Co.

RESIGNED.

Supper J. W. Dixon is permitted to resign, on leaving the Corps, dated June 26th, 1915.

PARADES.

Parades for to-day (Tuesday). 6.15 p.m. Civil Service Co.—Squad Drill and Rifle exercises under Company N. C. Os, on Cricket Ground. 6.30 p.m.—Nos. 1 and 2 Sections Artillery Battery and Left Section M. G. Co.—Squad Drill and Rifle Exercises under Company N. C. Os, on Cricket Ground. 6.30 p.m.—Right Section M. G. Co.—Lecture at Headquarters. 6.30 p.m.—Scouts Company (except N. C. Os, and men on duty at Detention Camp on 28th and 29th inst.)—Squad Drill and Rifle Exercises under Company N. C. Os, on Cricket Ground. 6.30 p.m.—Stretcher Bearer Section—Instruction at Headquarters. All members must attend. Remainder, nil.

DETAIL.

GUN CLUB HILL, KOWLOON. On duty until 3rd—Centre Section M. G. Co.

On duty—Capt. G. G. Wood. AT DETENTION CAMP, KOWLOON. On duty to-night—Scouts Company. Officer on duty—Lieut. Weall. Orderly Officer—Lieut. Wright. Orderly Sergeant—Sergeant Crawford. G. E. STEWART, Captain, Adjutant, H. K. V. C.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

PARADES.

Tuesday, June 29th—No. 1 British and Indian Platoons. Nos. 3 and 4 Portuguese Platoons. MUSKETEER.

The six best scores at Saturday's practice at King's Park Range were as follows:—

1—Sergeant Sirdar Khan.....	200	500	600 Ttl.
2—T. Arnold.....	23	29	52
3—Sergeant Lamington.....	23	28	51
4—Sergeant Major Roylance.....	25	28	53
5—Sergeant Inspector Mason.....	22	28	50
6—O. Chan.....	24	19	43
Grant Smith.....	29	24	53
Cooke.....	17	24	41

F. C. JENKINS, D. S. P. (Reserve).

INTIMATIONS

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

(ESTABLISHED 1820).

(TELEPHONE 1741).

FOR ALL KINDS OF

BAGS

LADIES' LEATHER HAND-BAGS. SILK VANITY BAGS.

HOLDALLS LINEN BAGS.

GENT'S COLLAR BOXES. COLLAR BAGS.

KIT BAGS—SUIT CASES, CADDY BAGS.

HAT CASES, CRICKET BAGS.

TENNIS BALL NETS, ETC., ETC.

ALL BRITISH MADE.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

WE ARE OFFERING FOR ONE MONTH ONLY A SPECIAL LINE

IN DRAB LINEN,

COAT AND TROUSERS \$7.50.

GROSE & CO., LTD.,

TAILORS.

29, DES VOUX ROAD,

HONGKONG.

LONDON CUTTER.

Hongkong, 14th June, 1915.

[662]



NOTICE.

ANY EUROPEAN desiring to leave the Colony should apply in writing for permission to do so to the PROVOST MARSHAL, Head Quarters Office, at least 48 hours before the intended hour of departure, giving name, nationality, age, sex, height, complexion and occupation of the applicant, and stating the name of the steamer or other vessel or the hour of the train by which the applicant wishes to leave. Applicants should apply in person for their passes to the PROVOST MARSHAL at Head Quarters Office between the hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Hongkong 26th January, 1915. [207]



NOTICE.

ALL Persons applying to the PROVOST MARSHAL for Passes are requested to apply between the hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Hongkong, 16th February, 1915. [202]



SAVE YOUR BLADES.

75 Cts. per Dozen.

We can re-sharpen their usefulness, re-sharpen them and make them like new.

WE SHARPEN EVERYTHING.

CAMPBELL, MOORE & Co., LTD.

Hongkong, 24th June, 1915. [667]

CLEARANCE SALE OF LAMPSHADES.

30 per cent. discount for CASH.

KOMOR & KOMOR'S

ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS, Des Voux Road.

Hongkong, 9th June, 1915. [646]

FRENCH LESSONS

G. MOUSSON, 18, MORRISON HILL ROAD.

Hongkong, 24th June, 1915. [647]

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' ORDINANCES 1911 AND 1913.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CHINA & MANILA STEAMSHIP CO. LIMITED.

AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the above Company, duly convened and held at St. George's Building, Charter Road, Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, on MONDAY, the Twenty-eighth day of June, 1915, the following Resolutions which were passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company held on the Twelfth day of June, 1915, were confirmed as Special Resolutions:

- That the Company be wound-up voluntarily and that Messrs. SHEWAN, TOMES & CO. of St. George's Building, aforesaid, be and they hereby are appointed Liquidators for the purpose of such winding-up and that the remuneration of the Liquidators for their services in the winding-up shall not exceed the sum of \$500.
- ROBT. SHEWAN, Chairman.

Dated the 28th day of June, 1915. [710]

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' ORDINANCES 1911 AND 1913.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CHINA & MANILA STEAMSHIP CO. LTD. (IN LIQUIDATION).

FIRST RETURN OF CAPITAL.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a FIRST RETURN OF CAPITAL of \$4.50 per Share has been declared in this matter, and that the same may be received at the Office of the Liquidators, St. George's Building, Charter Road, Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, on or after WEDNESDAY, 30th June, 1915. No return of Capital will be made unless Share Certificates are produced when applying for payment.

SHEWAN, TOMES & Co., Liquidators.

Hongkong, the 28th day of June, 1915. [711]

NOTICE.

THURSDAY, July 1st, 1915, and until further Notice, 25% Cash Discount will be allowed on all Goods.

M. GAINS, Alexandra Buildings.

Hongkong, 29th June, 1915. [707]

TO BE LET.

WHOLE or PART SHOP in Chater Road.

Apply—CLARK & Co., Opticians.

Hongkong, 29th June, 1915. [705]

"SHIRE" LINE OF STEAMERS, LTD.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM UNITED KINGDOM, ETC.

THE Steamship

"MERIONETHSHIRE."

having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo by her are hereby informed that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

Goods not cleared by the 5th July, at 5 P.M. will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed and damaged packages are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on 5th July, at 3.30 P.M. Claims against the steamer must be presented within 10 days of arrival, otherwise they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by us in any case whatever.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., Agents.

Hongkong, 29th June, 1915. [6]

THE "INDRA" LINE, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM NEW YORK.

THE Steamship

"INDRA."

having arrived from the above Port, Consignees of Cargo by her are hereby informed that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Ltd., whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

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Bills of Lading will be countersigned by JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., Agents.

Hongkong, 29th June, 1915. [710]

BANK HOLIDAY.

UNDER Ordinance No. 6 of 1912, THURSDAY, 1st July, has been proclaimed a GENERAL HOLIDAY and the EXCHANGE BANKS will be CLOSED for Business on that day.

Hongkong, 29th June, 1915. [702]

THE HONGKONG CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of Members will be held at the Club House on June 30th, 1915, at 6 P.M.

All Members are specially requested to attend. By Order of the Committee.

A. D. GEE, Hon. Secretary.

Hongkong, 24th June, 1915.

INTIMATIONS

NOTICE.

THE 6 PER CENT. INTERNAL LOAN OF THE CHINESE REPUBLIC (1914).

THE PUBLIC are hereby notified that the SECOND PAYMENT OF INTEREST of the 6% Internal Loan of the Chinese Republic (1914) will fall due on the 30th of June of this year. With the exception of the date of redemption, governing the Payment of Interest of the Loan, which have been published in the Government Gazette and which have been printed for the information of the Public by all the establishments authorized for the Payment of Interest, the following important points are hereby published for general information:

1. The date when the Payment of Interest begins.

2. The Organs authorized for the Payment of Interest.

3. The Methods for the Claiming of Interest.

4. The Maturity of the Loan.

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HOUSES TO LET

TO LET.

NORMAN COTTAGE, No. 2, Peak Road. 4 GOOD ROOMS. Apply—PERCY SMITH, SETH & FLEMING, 5, Queen's Road Central. Hongkong, 23rd June, 1915. [685]

TO LET.

"HOMEVILLE" No. 153, Wanchai Road. 10 Rooms. House, with Small Garden. Splendid View of the Harbour. TWO GODOWNS at Wanchai, Nos. 6 and 8, Cross Lane (formerly occupied by Meyerink & Co.). Apply—D. H. Care of "Daily Press" Office. Hongkong, 14th June, 1915. [691]

TO LET.

HOUSES in TORRES BUILDINGS, Kowloon. Apply to—SPANISH DOMINICAN PROCURATION. Hongkong, 9th June, 1915. [691]

TO LET.

FURNISHED, including a splendid Piano, "FAIR VIEW," No. 3, Robinson Road, containing 6 Rooms, with ample Servants' Quarters. Apply to—DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd. Hongkong, 1st June, 1915. [616]

TO LET.

2ND FLOOR, No. 1, DUDDELL STREET, for Office or Dwellings. Apply within. Hongkong, 1st June, 1915. [616]

TO LET.

BRITISH CONCESSION, SHAMEN, CANTON. JUST Completed: Building of Modern Fire-Proof Structure; Electric Light and Hot and Cold Water Installation throughout. Good Office and Godown accommodation. These self-contained flats. Occupation end July. Inspection invited. Apply—T. E. GRIFFITH, LTD., Canton, 28th May, 1915. [611]

TO LET.

FOUR-ROOMED FLATS in Hanoi Road, Kowloon, and MAY ROAD, Hongkong, with possession on or about 15th August next. English Baths and Kitchen ranges, Hot and Cold Water, Electric Light, First Class Modern Appliances throughout, including Water Carriage System. "PENYBREW," Minden Row, Kowloon, 6-Roomed House with Tennis Court, 2 and 3, MINDEN VILLAS, Kowloon, 5-Roomed House with Tennis Court, 4, MINDEN VILLAS, Kowloon, 4-Roomed House with Tennis Court, 5, MINDEN VILLAS, Kowloon, 4-Roomed House with Tennis Court, 6, MINDEN VILLAS, Kowloon, 4-Roomed House with Tennis Court, 7, MINDEN VILLAS, Kowloon, 4-Roomed House with Tennis Court, 8, MINDEN VILLAS, Kowloon, 4-Roomed House with Tennis Court, 9, MINDEN VILLAS, Kowloon, 4-Roomed House with Tennis Court, 10, MINDEN VILLAS, Kowloon, 4-Roomed House with Tennis Court, 11, MINDEN VILLAS, Kowloon, 4-Roomed House with Tennis Court, 12, MINDEN VILLAS, Kowloon, 4-Roomed House with Tennis Court, 13, MINDEN VILLAS, Kowloon, 4-Roomed House with Tennis Court, 14, MINDEN VILLAS, Kowloon, 4-Roomed House with Tennis Court, 15, MINDEN VILLAS, Kowloon, 4-Roomed House with Tennis Court, 16, MINDEN VILLAS, Kowloon, 4-Roomed House with Tennis Court, 17, MINDEN VILLAS, Kowloon, 4-Roomed House with Tennis Court, 18, 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THE WAR.

BATTLE OF GALICIA.

RUSSIANS AGAIN RETIRING.

GERMANY'S SUBMARINE WARFARE.

CONTINUATION INSISTED UPON.

GERMANS AND USE OF POISON GAS.

EXTRAORDINARY OFFICIAL "DEFENCE."

BULGARIA'S WAR PREPARATIONS.

RUSSIAN FRONT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE BATTLE OF GALICIA.

CONTINUES WITH UNABATED VIOLENCE.

PETROGRAD, June 27th.

There is fierce fighting on the Narva front. The Russians were mostly successful, but were compelled to give ground in the Orjitz Valley, the German heavy guns completely destroying one work by "annihilating fire."

A communiqué reports that the Germans attacked on three occasions on the Vistula, to the south of Piltze, but were repulsed with grave losses.

The enemy in the Lemberg region failed to make headway, while the Russians continued their successes in the battle along the Dniester. The remainder of the enemy in the Kozary districts were driven beyond the river.

We captured the remainder of the Austrians and Germans who crossed the Dniester further eastward. Notwithstanding the disastrous results of these crossings the enemy attempted further crossings in the night-time. The battle continues.

LATER.

A further communiqué says:—

Along the Narva front the Germans were unsuccessful in their offensive movements in the Omukhi Valley. Their attacks proved most costly, heaps of bodies being left before our trenches. We regained the lost ground in the Orjitz Valley.

A fierce Russian offensive near Przyszysz is developing into desperate bayonet fighting.

An enemy battalion was caught on our outposts near Zavihost, where the Vistula leaves Galicia, and was annihilated by a cross-fire.

Along the Tanef front there is calm.

In a counter-attack in the direction of Zolkief and Lemberg, supported by an armored train, we captured 2,000 prisoners and 13 machine-guns. There's fierce fighting at Bobrka, 20 miles to the southeast of Lemberg.

We continue to repulse desperate attacks of great Austro-German forces on the Dniester, and have captured another 1,000.

RUSSIANS AGAIN RETIRING.

PETROGRAD, June 28th.

It is officially announced that the enemy has brought up great forces, which are fighting on the line left of the Vistula, between Czarcw and Zavihost, but his offensive on Saturday was unsuccessful.

The Russians in Galicia, after a stubborn resistance along the front Bobrka-Zurawno, are retiring. They took 1,640 prisoners in counter-attacks on Saturday.

AIRSHIP ACTIVITY.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

AVIATORS AGAIN BOMB DOUAI STATION.

PARIS, June 27th.

French aviators have seriously damaged Douai Railway Station.

FRANCO-BELGIAN FRONT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

A LIVELY NIGHT.

BETWEEN THE OISE AND THE AISNE.

PARIS, June 27th.

To-day's communiqué says:—
There was a rather lively night between the Rivers Oise and Aisne. The Germans made a most violent attack at Bagatelle on Saturday night, the enemy being driven back after an extremely hot struggle. Fighting took place throughout the night on the heights of the Meuse. All our gains were maintained.

The Germans poured incendiary shells on to Arracourt.

GERMANY'S COWARDLY METHODS.

MORE BURNING LIQUID USED AGAINST THE FRENCH.

PARIS, June 28th.

The evening communiqué says:—
Fighting along the Central and Northern fronts is confined to cannonading.

Isolated actions in Argonne have not affected the respective positions.

The Germans in the fighting on the heights of the Meuse on Saturday, used burning liquids, and re-captured trenches under cover of clouds of smoke. They were soon driven out, however, with heavy losses.

AUSTRO-ITALIAN FRONT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

AUSTRIANS USING GAS BOMBS.

ROME, June 28th.

A communiqué says:—Nothing important has occurred within the last 24 hours. The artillery duel is increasing in intensity.

The Austrians along the Isonzo front are using asphyxiating bombs.

The enemy's latest expedition is to spread a report among the Italian troops that a devastating earthquake has occurred at Calabria, but the report, which is baseless, failed to take effect.

TRENCH WARFARE ALONG ITALIAN FRONT.

ROME, June 28th.

Owing to the arrival of large Austrian reinforcements the operations in districts like Melborghetta, Lavaronne, and Tolmino are beginning to resemble the trench warfare in France.

GENERAL.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GERMAN SOCIALIST PEACE MANIFESTO.

AMSTERDAM, June 28th.

An official statement concerning the suspension of the German Socialist organ *Vorwärts*, asserts that the Socialist Peace Manifesto is highly regrettable, and may be interpreted abroad as indicative of war-weariness.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

STRANGE AUSTRO-GERMAN CONFERENCE.

A MEETING AT VIENNA.

LONDON, June 27th.

Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the Imperial Chancellor, and Herr von Jagow, the German Foreign Secretary, have arrived at Vienna to confer with the Austrian Foreign Minister. The Emperor Francis Joseph granted an audience to Dr. Bethmann-Hollweg.

There is much speculation as to the meaning of their movements in view of the recent pact-talk in Germany and of the financial situation.

AMSTERDAM, June 28th.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* says that the Imperial Chancellor and Herr von Jagow have gone to Vienna to discuss means of effectively combating the great efforts of the Triple Entente in the Balkans.

GERMANS AND THE AMERICAN DEMANDS.

A NOTE OF DEFIANCE.

AMSTERDAM, June 28th.

Undeterred by the suppression of the *Tages-Zeitung*, and perhaps encouraged by its reappearance the *Kreuz Zeitung* vehemently insists that Germany should continue her present submarine warfare and angrily denounces those who are talking of the danger of a conflict with America. It indignantly rejects the suggestion that Germany should agree with the American demands, provided the United States induces Great Britain to raise "the so-called blockade."

GERMANY AND USE OF POISON GAS.

AN ASTOUNDING "DEFENCE."

AMSTERDAM, June 28th.

The *Cologne Gazette*, in a long official defence of the employment of poisonous gas, says:—

"The basic idea of The Hague agreements is to prevent unnecessary killing. Consequently the use of smoke clouds moving gently toward the enemy is not only permissible by International Law but is an extraordinarily mild form of war compared with flooding."

The article concludes:—"The enemy is jealous of German science."

EXCHANGE OF INVALID PRISONERS.

LONDON, June 28th.

It is announced that 430 invalid British prisoners are coming from Germany in exchange for 210 Germans.

TURKS TREAT BRITISH PRISONERS WELL.

LONDON, June 28th.

The American Ambassador reports that the 65 British prisoners in the hands of the Turks are well treated, and are in good health.

ALBANIA'S NEW RULER.

LONDON, June 28th.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* says the Montenegrins have occupied Sangiovanni Medua, and that the Albanians have recognised King Nicholas of Montenegro as their Sovereign.

A SOUTH AFRICA OVERSEAS CONTINGENT.

JOHANNESBURG, June 27th.

A strong movement, supported by prominent Dutchmen, has been started in favour of despatching an overseas contingent.

DR. DERNBURG IN BERLIN.

AMSTERDAM, June 28th.

Dr. Dernburg has arrived in Berlin from the United States.

STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION OF FRANCE.

PARIS, June 28th.

The Chamber of Deputies cheered a speech by M. Ribot, the Minister for Finance, reviewing the financial situation. He declared that French credit was intact after eleven months of war.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ON WHOSE SIDE? BULGARIA FEVERISHLY PREPARING FOR WAR.

LONDON, June 28th.

The attitude of Bulgaria is suddenly attracting attention owing to the reports, mostly from Italian sources, that the Reservists have been recalled and of the feverish activity of political leaders, pointing to preparations for immediate intervention in the war, but there is nothing to indicate on which side she will intervene.

FRENCH SHIRKERS' BILL.

PARIS, June 28th.

The French Shirkers' Bill has been passed.

SWEDISH GENDARMERY FOR CHINA.

STOCKHOLM, June 27th.

General Hjalmarson has returned to Stockholm, having concluded negotiations with the Chinese Government for the establishment of Swedish gendarmery in China. General Hjalmarson proposed the establishment of a Corps of 3,000 men in Hunan, with 20 instructors, and a Central Bureau at Peking, with a School for officers, non-commissioned officers, and 400 cadets. Only diplomatic negotiations between the Swedish and Chinese Governments remain to be completed.

CHINESE TELEGRAM.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

CORRUPTION IN CHINESE OFFICIALDOM.

PEKING, June 27th.

Uncasiness prevails in the Government offices as the impeachments and dismissals continue.

Chang-Hu, the ex-Vice-Minister of Finance has not acted on a telegraphic request to return to Peking for trial. It is understood that he pleads sickness.

Hsu, Shih-tseng, the Vice-Minister for War, has been relieved of office at his own request. Tien Tchung-wu, Commissioner for Shanghai, will succeed him.

[FROM THE MANILA "CABLENEWS."]

EARTHQUAKE IN CALIFORNIA.

LOS ANGELES, June 28.

A series of severe earthquakes has taken place on the border between California and Lower California. So far 15 are known to have been killed and many others have been injured.

Lower California and that part of Mexico bordering thereon are in a state of terror. The people are fleeing out in the open and bodies of United States cavalry are patrolling the affected area. The extent of territory covered by the disaster is not stated.

THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

WASHINGTON, June 28.

The proposed landing of United States Marines to protect American lives and interests against possible harm at the hands of the hostile Yaqui Indians, has stirred the Mexican commander at Guaymas who has made the suggestion that Americans should leave the Yaqui valley under Mexican escort.

He also urges that landing of Marines be not carried out for fear that it would create a misunderstanding and still further trouble.

Conditions throughout the Yaqui valley are desperate.

JAPAN AND THE PROVINCE OF FUKIEN.

PEKING, May 25th.

The following notes were exchanged in the recent negotiations between Japan and China:—

Monsieur le Ministre,
As it has been reported that the Chinese Government intend to permit a foreign Power to build a shipyard, military coaling station, naval station, and all other military establishments, on the coast of Fukien Province, or that China herself intends to build the above-mentioned establishments with foreign capital, I have the honour to request your Excellency to be good enough to inform me whether the Chinese Government have in fact such intention.

I avail, etc.

His Excellency
Mr. LU CHENG-HSING,
etc., etc., etc.

PEKING, May 25th.

Monsieur le Ministre,
In reply to your Excellency's note of to-day's date, I have the honour to make the declaration that the Chinese Government will in no case permit a foreign Power to build a shipyard, military coaling station, naval station, or any other military establishment, nor do they intend, to build the above-mentioned establishments with foreign capital.

I avail, etc.

His Excellency
Mr. LU CHENG-HSING,
etc., etc., etc.

His Excellency
Mr. ERI HIOKI,
etc., etc., etc.

FORGERY CHARGE AT SHANGHAI.

BLAIR SENTENCED TO SIX MONTHS.

At H.M. Supreme Court at Shanghai.

On the 22nd inst. before Sir Havilland de Saumarez, Judge, H. L. Blair appeared for trial upon charges of having defrauded his employers, Messrs. Butterfield & Swire. There were two indictments. The first was that, on or about May 31st, the accused feloniously forged and uttered a promissory order for \$702.23 drawn on Messrs. Butterfield & Swire, and purporting to be payable to Captain R. H. Lloyd, with intent to defraud. The second count in the indictment was similar, the amount in this case being \$1,857.96, and the person to whom the order was alleged to be payable was Captain R. J. Cain.

Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, Crown Advocate, with whom was Mr. K. E. Newman, appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. E. W. Godfrey appeared on behalf of the accused.

Accused pleaded guilty.

The Crown Advocate said the facts of the case were before his lordship on the depositions, and he did not propose to say anything in regard to them.

Mr. Godfrey said he had been asked to appear for the prisoner and with his lordship's permission would address the Court on his behalf. That the accused had committed acts of great seriousness could not be denied, counsel proceeded, and there was no question about it that it would be for him a matter of regret for the rest of his life. He was a young man, twenty-seven years of age, and had been in Shanghai only for a year. He came out to join Messrs. Butterfield & Swire. At home he bore an irreproachable character, and he came to Messrs. Butterfield & Swire with excellent references. It would be said, no doubt, that he had arrived at an age when he should be able to distinguish between right and wrong, but there was a good deal to be said for a young man coming out to the East alone and away from those influences which at home were such a protection. In the circumstances, he would ask his lordship to consider his age, his antecedents, and the circumstances and surroundings in which he gave way to this temptation.

His lordship—I do not know what they are.

Mr. Godfrey—During the twelve months he has been here he has led a life which has got him into great difficulties. He was apparently not strong enough to resist the temptation which offered itself. I would ask your lordship to consider all these circumstances and consider whether it would not be possible to deal with the accused under the Probationers' Act. He has suffered a certain amount of imprisonment already, and must suffer, as I have said, for the rest of his days. Counsel also asked his lordship to take into consideration the fact that the accused was very anxious to submit, and said that adequate arrangements could be made for his leaving soon if he were given an opportunity.

In reply to his lordship, Mr. Wilkinson said that in the circumstances he did not feel that he could say anything, and he must leave it to his lordship.

His lordship—I hardly feel that I know enough about this case at present to be able to deal with it otherwise than as an ordinary case. I must have everything put before me if I am to give weight to it. Mr. Godfrey—There is a gentleman here from Messrs. Butterfield & Swire who will speak on the matter.

His lordship—I have before me simply the depositions which show that this is a serious crime of a character with which we are not altogether unfamiliar here in Shanghai, the case of a man taking advantage of facilities to defraud his employers. If you wish me to consider the special circumstances, those circumstances must be put before the Court.

Mr. Godfrey—The special circumstances I was referring to are his previous character and his age.

His lordship—He is quite old enough to know better.

Mr. J. R. Greaves, of Messrs. Butterfield & Swire, said he would like to associate himself with what counsel had said with regard to the accused. He was one of many whom the firm brought out East. It was impossible to overlook the great temptations to which young men like the accused were subjected when they were surrounded by perfectly strange circumstances. A man must feel it unless he was of very strong character. Witness said he would like to add that the accused had given information which assisted them in tracing the deficiencies, and what he had told them was entirely true. He had made some financial restitution, to the extent of nearly \$1,000.

His lordship—That substantially is what the charge amounts to, but I hardly think that is the whole story, from what you have said. He is only charged before me in relation to two matters, the amounts concerned being between \$1,100 and \$1,200, and you say he has refunded \$1,000. I can hardly imagine that is the whole story. I do not wish to say any more than that; but if I am to deal with the case in any exceptional way I ought to be taken into the confidence of every one. If I am not, I can only deal with the case as an ordinary one.

Witness—On behalf of his employers, I ask you to deal leniently with him as far as you can.

His lordship—What was the cause of his extravagance?

Witness—Living beyond his means.

His lordship—That is no excuse. I do not know whether there are any other matters which could be brought to my attention, if sentence were postponed until tomorrow morning. If there are not, I must proceed on the information I have got.

It is not very much, and is simply the case of a young clerk who has defrauded his employers. Is there no explanation as to what temptation there was, or how he was influenced or led to this course of conduct?

Mr. Godfrey—The temptation, of course, was that he fell into a certain way of living, as some young men do.

His lordship—What "certain way"? His lordship—What "certain way"? I wish you would speak out. I don't quite understand this squeamishness in a Court of Justice.

Mr. Godfrey—It is not squeamishness. The simple fact is that he led a life of extravagance, and so on; and that is all that can be said.

His lordship—Well, then, there is no excuse whatever.

In passing sentence, his lordship said: My duty is a very painful duty which falls sometimes to a Judge in a country like this, to have to pass sentence on one of his fellow countrymen, a young man who has come out with prospects, and who has not had sufficient self-restraint to avoid the temptations which are perhaps sometimes too well within his reach in such a city as this. But ready as I am, and anxious as I am, always to weigh anything that can be urged in favour of any one who is in the position in which you now stand, I must look to the general interests of the community, and it would never do, where there has been so serious a crime as this committed, to pass it over, or even to deal with it so lightly as it has been suggested that I might do in this case. It is quite impossible for one man to go free without it being a temptation to others, inasmuch as the fear of punishment is removed from them, to do the same sort of thing. The one thing that has been said in your favour is that when once an end was put to this course of defrauding your employers—that is the vice of defrauding your employers—you appear to have given them all the information you can had in order to minimize their loss. It is quite impossible for me to take the course indicated by Mr. Godfrey, and I was in doubt whether I ought not to pass upon you the sentence which is always passed in similar cases, but I feel justified in reducing it to a certain extent. I must order you to be imprisoned, and to be kept to hard labour for the term of six months. *N. C. Daily News.*

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Mr. Godfrey—It is not squeamishness. The simple fact is that he led a life of extravagance, and so on; and that is all that can be said.

His lordship—Well, then, there is no excuse whatever.

In passing sentence, his lordship said: My duty is a very painful duty which falls sometimes to a Judge in a country like this, to have to pass sentence on one of his fellow countrymen, a young man who has come out with prospects, and who has not had sufficient self-restraint to avoid the temptations which are perhaps sometimes too well within his reach in such a city as this. But ready as I am, and anxious as I am, always to weigh anything that can be urged in favour of any one who is in the position in which you now stand, I must look to the general interests of the community, and it would never do, where there has been so serious a crime as this committed, to pass it over, or even to deal with it so lightly as it has been suggested that I might do in this case. It is quite impossible for one man to go free without it being a temptation to others, inasmuch as the fear of punishment is removed from them, to do the same sort of thing. The one thing that has been said in your favour is that when once an end was put to this course of defrauding your employers—that is the vice of defrauding your employers—you appear to have given them all the information you can had in order to minimize their loss. It is quite impossible for me to take the course indicated by Mr. Godfrey, and I was in doubt whether I ought not to pass upon you the sentence which is always passed in similar cases, but I feel justified in reducing it to a certain extent. I must order you to be imprisoned, and to be kept to hard labour for the term of six months. *N. C. Daily News.*

ALLEGED FORGED MORTGAGE.

ACTION IN THE SUPREME COURT.

Before the Chief Justice (Sir Wm. Rees Davies, K.C.), in Original Jurisdiction, at the Supreme Court yesterday, an interesting action came on for hearing, in which Tong Shun, of No. 3, Breezy Terrace, is the plaintiff, and Fung Ping Shun and Fung Yee Chai, of No. 58, Bonham Strand, the defendants. The plaintiff claims a declaration that the property, Island Lot No. 556, (204, Bonham Strand East) is vested in him absolutely, free from encumbrances; or, in the alternative, that the plaintiff is absolutely entitled in equity to the said property free from any encumbrances. Plaintiff also asks for the delivery up of possession of the premises, and of a mortgage, dated the 31st December, 1915, and for an account of the rents and profits of the premises from the 31st January, 1915, until possession is given up.

Mr. Eldon Potter (instructed by Mr. C. Hastings, of Messrs. Hastings & Hastings) was for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C. (instructed by Mr. W. T. L. Shenton), was for the defence.

Mr. Potter briefly outlined the facts of the action. The plaintiff had lived for some years in the United States of America, but had business interests in this colony, and at the times material to this action or to the proceedings which led up to this action he was interested in a firm called the Tang Yat Po, in which a man named Tong Yat Po, who would play an important part in these proceedings, was a partner.

In 1909 the plaintiff conceived the idea of investing money in landed property in Hongkong, and with this object in view remitted money to Tong Yat Po, Tang Hang Yat Po, or rather to the sum of \$88,000, from Chicago to the up of sums of \$23,000, \$7,000, and \$25,000. Tong Yat Po, did in fact buy two properties on the plaintiff's behalf and with the plaintiff's money. One of these properties was Island Lot 556, the subject of another action. The value of the property concerned in this action was \$23,000, the value of the other \$31,000. The property concerned in this action was quite new, and that really was the first issue that would have to be tried. The other side said that Tong Shun was not the plaintiff at all, but this man, Tong Yat Po, who bought the property for the plaintiff.

In answer to his lordship, Mr. Potter said that the defendants, being the mortgages, did not know anything about the plaintiff's money. If they could be taken in good faith, they did not know whose money bought the property, but he would prove that the plaintiff remitted the money, and that that money was used for the purpose of purchasing the property concerned. Defendants said that whoever actually owned the money it was put in the name of Tong Yat Po. The latter mortgaged the property to the defendants on the 24th December, 1915. The mortgage was made by Tong Yat Po in the name of Tong Shun, and the plaintiff said that it was made improperly, and without authority, and indeed by personating the plaintiff. In short, the mortgage, so far as the plaintiff was concerned, was a forgery. He put the plaintiff's name on the mortgage deed, not his own, and raised \$12,000 on it, and appropriated that money to his own use.

His lordship—Had the plaintiff given him any power of attorney to act in such a manner?

Mr. Potter—No, my lord. He had no authority of any kind or description to deal with this property at all.

The remainder of the day was occupied with legal argument, and the hearing was adjourned.

THE BATTLE OF FESTUBERT.

A STORY OF BRAVE DEEDS.

THE VALUE OF YOUNG OFFICERS.

[BY JOHN HUGHAN IN "THE TIMES".]

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS, May 30th.

Flinders just now is full of strange transformations. The children set the key. One hour you find them in a pleasant old church, sitting with solemn self-control under the tutelage of the priest, and the next they are bounding over the battlements with their persistence for souvenirs. One day you meet weary and dusty men returning from the trenches after a heavy fight; and two days later you find the same men washed and shaven and good-humoured, taking their ease among the lush Flemish meadows. And there is, of course, the fuller transformation of which is the result of the mere fact of war. A young private from whom I asked the way answered in the familiar accents of Oxford. I met two men, the last of the Ypres battle and full of intelligent professional interest, who told me they had been London shopwalkers.

But the change seems to me most marked in the Scots. The kilt was worn to-day has always to my eyes a formal and modern look, suggestive of Rob Roy than of the Prince Consort. But which this change of the famous red tartan of the Scots? The men are stained and faded, the helmet has a jaunty air, the men have a long loyally stride. They might be their 17th century forbears, slipping on a moonlight night through the Locheaber Passes. Here is a battalion from the Borders. The ordinary Borderer in peace time looks like anybody else, but these men seem suddenly to have remembered their ancestry. They have the lean strength, the pale adventurous eyes of the old Delabelland.

THE FETTERED "BIRD".

To-day I have seen many of the battalions who were engaged in the Festubert battle to-night ago. It is hard to know how to name the battles of this war, for often the battlefields are whole countries, or the whole length of a river. But in this case we are dealing with a small front, and the action may correctly be named after the point from which we started. In South Africa, looking at the casualties and the numbers engaged, it would have been a major battle; but in this campaign it ranks only as an episode, one link in the long drawn chain of the Allied attack.

The main details are simple. Late on the night of Saturday, May 16, the main preparations for an advance against the bulge of the German line, which lies between Neuve Chapelle and Givenchy. On Sunday morning our right advanced more than a mile. The German trenches here are curiously complicated, as we reached what was their main communication trench near the Rue d'Ouvet. Our centre also advanced some distance from La Quinke Rue, but our left was held up. That night, and on the Monday night following, we fought for communication trenches, and endeavored to disengage our left, and to recover to German fortifications. The fighting is still going on, and it is well to be clear as to its exact nature.

We have not only pushed the German front back for a mile or so, but we have made it front assume the character of a string of beads. Each one of these beads is a fortress, which endures any further advance, so that it must be destroyed before a further advance is possible. That is what we are busy at just now; that is what the French are doing in the Arras district; that is the chief characteristic of the present phase of the war in the West. All these thrusts of the Allies, small and great, endanger the enemy's lateral communications, so that he is less able to pass reserves quickly to a threatened part of his front.

HOW-THE-EXPLOITS.

It is right that people at home should have to wait a little before they get a detailed account of operations which are not yet concluded. But it is also right that the exploits of battalions should be made known as soon as possible, for they are mighty aids to recruiting in the different localities and they are an invaluable incentive to the New Armies.

Take first, the right of our advance on Sunday, May 16—the most successful part. The battalions which carried out this attack held firmly to the trenches they had won. The country was dead flat and seemed with water-courses, and it was very difficult to find the points indicated by our air reconnaissance. The enemy attempted to make a barrage of fire behind us, so that it was a perilous business to get up reserves of men and munitions. Our supports in the trenches had to sit still during hours of shelling—the most difficult of duties in war. Happily, the rain on the Monday and the marshy ground to some extent nullified the effect of the cannonade. Shells often sank into the earth without bursting.

Bombing played a large part in the attack, for it was the only way to clear the trenches. The chief exploits of our recent fighting have been amongst the grenadier companies. For example, Company "B" of the Grenadier Battalion, went out on the right of the attack on the 16th with seven men. He cleared with bombs and occupied 600 yards of German trenches, cut 11 mines, and captured 102 prisoners, including three officers. There is an exploit which would be hard to parallel. Not less gallant was Private Hardy, of the Queens, who was badly wounded in the left arm (he was a left-handed man), but continued throwing bombs with his right till he was shot dead. There was also Second Lieutenant Hassell, of the South Staffords, who had charge of a grenadier company, and went back himself under a deadly fire to get more bombs.

A Territorial battalion, the 8th Royal Scots, was brought into the firing line after the first hour, and kept its place to the end in the thickest of the fighting. Its heroic commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Brook, was killed by shell on the third day of the battle, was Lieutenant-Colonel Gabbett, of the Welsh Fusiliers, and Lieutenant-Colonel Bottemouy.

In the centre the attack was pushed in from the Rue du Bois on the Sunday morning. It advanced past the Rue de Caillaux, and then was held up for a time by machine-gun fire on the flank. Reinforcements enabled the attack to proceed, and brilliant work was done by the lancers of the Grenadier Guards.

In this part of the battle a company of the Scots Guards, with two officers, got too far ahead and were cut off. The remnants of two Canadian battalions, in the Second Battle of Ypres, and died to a man. Even so was the stand of the Scots Guards. For them, as for the steel circle around the King at Flodden, there could be no retreat. When, some

days later, we took the place we found the Guards lying on the field of honour with swaths of the enemy's dead around them. The history of war can show no more noble ending.

THE DITCH OF DEATH.

On the Monday evening a further advance was made by our right. It was a night of black darkness, when a man could not see 10 ft. before him. The heaviest fighting fell to the 4th Camerons—men from Skye and the Outer Islands and the Inverness-shire glens—who had a higher proportion of Gaelic speakers than probably any battalion in the Service. Their advance began at 7.30 p.m., and presently they found themselves faced by a deep ditch which could not be jumped. Some swam, some got over on planks laid by the Germans, and all the while they were bravely shelled from some houses on their left. One company lost direction altogether, another company on the right was virtually wiped out, losing all its officers, but one company struggled on and took the furthest back German communication trench. It was Sedgemoor over again, where the appearance of an unexpected stream threw out a whole movement.

About 9 p.m. the advanced company was in a desperate position, with both its flanks in the air and no bombs. About midnight two platoons were moved up in support, but no machine guns could get across the stream, and the Germans from left and right were bombing the trench, while their machine and rifle fire "watered" all the hinterland.

In the small hours, seeing that the position was hopeless, the commanding officer ordered a retirement. It was no light task, for the parapet behind was high, there were no communication trenches (since the trench was itself a communication trench), and the whole zone was swept by fire. Some of the company pulled up the coverings of the ditches which ran across the trench and crawled down them. One officer managed to slither over a parapet with his men and got them away in safety. Many of the Camerons were deerstalkers, skilled in finding cover, and this may account for the comparative success of one of the most difficult withdrawals that ever fell to the lot of British soldiers.

As it was, the battalion was reduced to half its strength. Its gallant commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Fraser, was killed, and 12 other officers. Some were drowned in the ditches. When the men returned they were used from head to foot.

The doings of Sergeant-Major Ross should not be forgotten. He, when his company had lost all its officers, took command and brought back the remnants.

WORK OF VITAL SERVICES.

The kind of fighting we are now engaged in, with its constant enfilading by isolated enemy forces, brings certain services into special prominence. The chief of these is adequate reconnaissance—the need of heavy artillery being taken for granted. Air reconnaissance gives much, but cannot give everything; it cannot, for example, tell us the depth and nature of a stream, or what farms have been turned into fortresses. Yet, unless we know such things, we shall court disaster in any attack, and even more so in the defence. Our scouts worked wonderfully, and special mention should be made of a Birmingham man, Sergeant Heath, of the Warwickshire.

Then the preparatory work of the Royal Engineers is of vital importance.

Few people realize the part they play in the preliminaries of an attack. They have to arrange for cover, communication, bridging, and a host of other matters. They frequently reconnoitre ground even enemy ground—before infantry advance. At Festubert the engineers worked hard the whole of Sunday afternoon and night, and without their skilled aid no comprehensive attack is possible. They work all the time, let it be remembered, under the enemy's fire.

Another vital service in this kind of war is that of the signallers. Against a front held in pockets any advance must keep in very close touch with battalion headquarters. This work was admirably performed. For example, on the Sunday morning, three minutes after the Queen's reached their ultimate point, they had a line of communication established behind them. It is not an easy service. It takes a stout heart to go out, find where a line is broken, and mend it—all under heavy fire. In this connection the work of Sergeant Cox, of the Queen's, deserves to be put on record.

Brilliant, too, was the work done by the stretcher-bearers. Private Williamson, of the Queen's, under machine-gun and shell fire, carried back wounded, and when it seemed impossible for him to return he refused to take cover and went back to the firing line. Similar feats were performed by Corporal Tilson, of the Warwickshire, and by Corporal Coleman, of the Border Regiment. The latter, although the colonel's servant and exempt from this duty, brought back no fewer than 50 men.

Another lesson of the war in its present phase is the value of young officers. All the battalions engaged on our right at Festubert, except the Territorials, had been fighting since October. All were in the First Battle of Ypres, where they had desperate losses. All have had to be constantly renewed by drafts, and the officers are a young entry. It sounds a risky arrangement, but it works perfectly.

These young men are popular, keen, and highly competent. It might conceivably be different if we were fighting the old-fashioned kind of manœuvre battle, but in this war the young officer has abundantly justified himself. Perhaps the explanation is that the whole conditions are so novel that every man has to learn them from the beginning, and the officer of half a year's service has as much relevant experience as a veteran with a dozen medals, while he has the extra assets of youth and optimism.

OPTIMISM OF THE ARMY.

The impression left upon me after visiting many battalions at the front is one of strenuous optimism and unshaken confidence. Some of the men are very weary; many are rightly and properly homesick, and fight all the better for having much to love, but all—even the romantics three-days-out-of-a-desperate battle—are optimistic. It is the right kind of optimism, too, the kind which is more merciful than any pessimism, for it knows the difficulties far better than critics at home, but is perfectly resolved upon victory. Our countrymen have rarely any passion for fighting for their own sake, but they have a passion for finishing a job, and on that they will never waver.

Let me record another impression, the most vivid of all. Flinders is no longer a foreign country. It seems far more one's own land than England, from which most of one's friends are absent. Here you realize that you are living, not with a British Army, but with the British nation, with all that is best in all the ranks of our manhood. And such a nation! It is something to be humbly and thankfully proud of, for it has found its soul and recovered its heritage.

VODKA PROHIBITION.

SALUTARY EFFECTS IN RUSSIA.

Mr. G. I. S. Broomhall writes as follows to the *Economist* of the effects of the prohibition of the use of vodka in Russia:

Believing that the recent ukase prohibiting the use of vodka and other forms of alcohol in Russia was probably merely of the nature of a counsel of perfection directed at the masses and not reality, I wrote to an English friend long resident in South Russia, and have received his reply, which I think will be found of interest by all your readers. It will be seen that the prohibition is very much of a reality, and affects both rich and poor alike. The letter is dated March 5th, Nicolaieff, South Russia, and reads as follows:

As regards the vodka prohibition, I consider it as one of the most remarkable things which has taken place in modern social and economic history. The prohibition is really a good and a branch one, not only as regards vodka and other spirits, but also in most parts as regards wine, which is the ordinary beverage of the better paid classes. It is not possible to procure vodka by any means, the sale being absolutely prohibited. It has absolutely disappeared from the tables of the rich, and cannot be obtained even surreptitiously by the poor. I do not say there may not still be a little left in odd holes and corners which is being secretly sold, but this is a negligible quantity. It is exceedingly difficult to obtain even wine on a doctor's order, the doctor being exceedingly careful about giving a permit for their patients. Even beer is prohibited by local option in a great many places. Nicolaieff included, so that we are really teetotalers. It is indeed the nearest approach to a miracle or Utopia that one can have in these days of liberty of the subject to do what he likes.

EQUAL TO A REVOLUTION.

The result has been equal to a revolution. Drunkenness, the curse of the Russian peasant and workman, has been absolutely stamped out. Workmen work regularly, and their wives and families reap the benefit, the increased expenditure in food and clothing being remarkable. All the food and clothing shops here are doing a full business, notwithstanding the war, and one hardly sees a poorly dressed person, and very few beggars, which were formerly legion in the vicinity of the Government vodka shops for retail sale. The deposits in the Post Office Savings Banks have also considerably increased. In the beginning, I was much concerned for the stability of Russian finance when the Government voluntarily gave up an income of about 50 millions of pounds sterling, fearing that it would gravely prejudice their possibility of carrying on the war for a long time. After seven months of war, and observation of the efficiency which has been gained in the civil and military ranks of the country, I really begin to think that even already in a practical financial sense the excellent results of the reform are repaying the loss of revenue. The working classes and peasants are deep in their blessings on the new law, more especially the women, who felt the yoke of vodka not only in their domestic life, but in their lives and children in a country where a husband is still allowed to inflict corporal chastisement on his wife in certain cases.

THE RUBBER PROBLEM IN GERMANY.

A prize of £5,000 has been offered by the German Government for a successful method of regenerating old rubber. We publish the intelligence, not with the object of encouraging British inventors to compete for the prize, for that, if not expressly barred by Statute, is clearly assistance to the enemy, but as showing the straits to which Germany is reduced for lack of supplies of raw rubber.

The German rubber reclaiming industry is a considerable one, and has doubtless received a new forward impetus from the demand for its products caused by the war, but the utmost ingenuity of the reclaimers cannot but fail to produce an article which will fulfil all the requirements of the rubber manufacturers in the way raw rubber does. The £5,000 mentioned could certainly be put to no more profitable use than the acquisition of a process resulting in the complete regeneration of vulcanized rubber. Exactly what is required of the process is not stated in the account which has reached us, but probably the nearest approximation to new rubber will obtain at the price supposing that it shows sufficient advance upon the present best. In the peculiar circumstances of the case the factor of the cost of the process is not obviously the all important one, that it would be in ordinary times, and it is at all events possible that processes may be brought into use that will fail to yield a profit once peace is restored. A deduction that may be drawn from the fact of the offer being made is that the object is yet far from being attained; in the present state of affairs there is much more than £5,000 to be made by a comparatively successful process, and reclaimers must already be doing their very best. Beyond advertising the fact of the Government's desire for an improved "reclaim" the offer does not therefore do very much.

Copper and rubber are usually coupled in Press comments as materials of which the Germans are running short, and many conjectures are made as to the precise effect the scarcity of each will have on the duration of the war. We are disposed to ourselves to believe that the shortage of rubber will be felt the most, although its use is in connection with equipment rather than with shells, etc. Of both materials there are certainly large stocks in the rubber goods are almost invariably compounded and go through the process of vulcanization, making it difficult to obtain even a partial regeneration, large quantities of copper are to be found in practically all of our entirely pure form, and are readily available whenever those concerned care to take them.

SHIPPING IN PORT.

STEAMERS.

ANYO MARU, Japanese str., 1,298, K. Yamamoto, 18th June—Wakamatsu 18th June, Coal—Order.
CHANGSHA, British str., 1,463, F. C. Gambrell, 16th June—Melbourne 14th June, General—Butterfield & Swire.
CHANGHONG, British str., 1,145, Wolf, 14th June—Bangkok 8th June, Butterfield & Swire.
CHINGCHOW, British str., 1,108, Jas. Doyle, 23rd June—Port Farwell 20th June, Lime Stone.—Shewan, Tomes & Co.
GEMINI, British str., 1,366, E. Jones, 24th June—Bangkok 17th June, Rice—Order.
CHUSAN, British str., 1,338, R. Robertson, 23rd June—Bangkok 10th June, Rice and Wood—Butterfield & Swire.
FOSKES, British str., 1,986, F. A. Mitchell, 25th June—Calcutta 19th June, General—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
GLENFALLOCH, British str., 1,434, Macdonald, 27th June—Penang 21st June, General—Chinese.
HAIKUN, British str., 1,183, J. W. Evans, 27th June—Swatow 26th June, General—Douglas LaPraik & Co.
HAIYANG, British str., 1,269, A. Hodgins, 23rd June—Saigon 19th June, Rice—Douglas LaPraik & Co.
HEIYO MARU, Japanese str., 2,208, T. Nakamura, 22nd June—Mitsui 15th June, Coal—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.
HINSHU, British str., 1,885, A. C. Kennedy, 21st June—Sandakan 15th June, Timber and General—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
HUE, French str., 703, A. Cornhusen, 26th June—Ho-how 25th June, General—A. R. Marty.
ISURUWIMA MARU, Japanese str., 2,000, Kawano, 23rd June—Mitsui 17th June, Coal—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.
IXION, British str., 10,250, G. L. Stout, 19th June—Vancouver 1st May, General—Butterfield & Swire.
KANCHOW, British str., 1,222, J. Gibbs, 25th June—Chico 19th June, Beans and General—Butterfield & Swire.
KIRO MARU, Japanese str., 3,590, 26th June—Mitsui 20th June, General and Coal—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
KWANTUNG, Chinese str., Stewart, 19th June—Shanghai 9th June, General—Chinese.
KWONGSANG, British str., 1,428, W. F. Richard, 16th June—Shanghai 9th June, General—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
LODGER, British str., 2,063, B. L. Conns, 8th June—Daly 1st June, Bean Oil—Doddwell & Co.
MEXICAN PRINCE, British str., 1,953, H. MacDonald, 18th June—Singapore 10th June, Bulk Oil—Asiatic Petroleum Co.
MEXTON, British str., 4,798, Ellison Warrell, 26th June—Yokohama 18th June, General—Butterfield & Swire.
MORESBY, British str., 1,338, J. Fotheringham, 17th June—Bangkok 9th June, Rice—Order.
MYOSIAN MARU, Japanese str., 1,740, K. Munakata, 24th June—Wakamatsu 18th June, Coal—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.
PANAMA, Danish str., 3,300, A. E. Soyemann, 17th June—Port Arthur, Keresine Oil—Thoresen & Co.
SALAMIS, British str., 4,500, D. A. Gardner, 23rd June—South Africa 6th June, General—Bank Line, Ltd.
SARATIA, British str., 3,254, J. J. Davis, 21st June—San Francisco 25th June, Kerosene Oil—Standard Oil Co.
SELUN, Norwegian str., 563, D. Hovbrenner, 28th June—Bangkok 18th June, Rice—Thoresen & Co.
SINKIANG, British str., 1,016, C. C. Williams, 26th June—Amoy 21st June, General—Butterfield & Swire.
TAKYO MARU, Japanese str., T. Tamoto, 23rd June—Dairen 17th June, Coal and General—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.
TAISHUN, Chinese str., 1,200, Westerland, 26th June—Shanghai 21st June, General—Chinese.
TAMBA MARU, Japanese str., 3,803, P. Nagasue, 20th June—Shanghai 17th June, General—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
TAMING, British str., 1,350, G. H. Pennefather, 25th June—Mauritius 22nd June, General—Butterfield & Swire.
TRIUMPH, Dutch str., 1,068, F. J. Vyeboom, 23rd June—Singapore 9th June, Bulk Oil—Asiatic Petroleum Co.
TSAIKO, Japanese str., 1,528, S. Yamada, 16th June—Chingwantao 9th June, Coal—Order.
TANAN MARU, Japanese str., 1,422, G. Nishikawa, 19th June—Hongay 16th June, Coal—Order.
TENYO MARU, Japanese str., 13,398, S. Togo, 23rd June—San Francisco 22nd June, General—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
TOYORA MARU, Japanese str., 1,498, K. Shimizu, 21st June—Wakamatsu 15th June, Coal—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.
URUBERT, Dutch str., 1,094, J. C. Anker, 17th June—Singapore 9th June, Kerosene Oil—Asiatic Petroleum Co.
WASHING, British str., 1,170, M. Pickens, 23rd June—Ho-how 22nd June, Rice—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
ALBANA, British str., 2,297, W. Dunbar, 27th June—Chingwantao 19th June, Coal—Doddwell & Co.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

TO-DAY.

2.30 p.m.—Auction of Valuable Household Furniture, etc. at No. 6, Humphrey's Building, Kowloon, by Messrs. Hughes & Hough.

Wednesday, 30th June—

0 p.m.—Hongkong Corinthian Yacht Club General Meeting.

Thursday, 1st July—General Holiday.

Friday, 2nd July—

4 p.m.—A Special Bag Sale in aid of the Belgians, in the Grounds of Government House.

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PROJECTED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG—
SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

DESTINATION	STEAMERS	TONS	SAILING DATES
MARSEILLES and LONDON	KATORI MARU Capt. B. Kon,	20,000	THURSDAY, 1st July, at Noca.

VIA SINGAPORE, PENANG COLOMBO, SOERABAYA and PORT SAID	\$ KAMO MARU Capt. Shimizu, 16,000	{ THURSDAY, 15th July, at Noon.
VICTORIA, B.C. and SEATTLE VIA KEELUNG SHANGHAI, MOJI, KOBE YOKKAICHI and YOKOHAMA	\$ TAMBA MARU Capt. Nagasawa, 12,500	{ TUESDAY, 29th June, at 4 p.m.
	\$ YOKOHAMA MARU Capt. Komatsubara, 12,500	{ THURSDAY, 8th July, at 4 p.m.
SYDNEY and MELBOURNE, VIA MANILA, THURSDAY ISLAND, TOWNSVILLE and BRISBANE	\$ NIKKO MARU Capt. Takeeda, 9,000	{ FRIDAY, 16th July, at 4 p.m.
	\$ HITACHI MARU Capt.	{ TUESDAY, 17th August, at 11 a.m.

0.	CALCUTTA VIA SINGAPORE PENANG and RANGOON ...	{				
om ers	BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE, MALACCA and COLOMBO ...	{	IYO MARU Capt. Okamoto,	12,500	{ MONDAY, July.	5th
TS	KOBE and YOKOHAMA ...	{	COLOMBO MARU Capt. Sakamoto,	8,000	{ MONDAY, July.	5th
nes	SHANGHAI and KOBE ...	{				
	NAGASAKI, KOBE and YOKOHAMA ...	{	HITACHI MARU Capt. Tomiura,	13,500	{ FRIDAY, July, 10 A.M.	16th

SHANGHAI KOBÉ and (S MISHIMA MARU (WED. DAY, 30th
YOKOHAMA Capt. Wada, 16000 June, at 10 A.M.

§ Wireless Telegraphy.

PASSENGER SEASON FOR 1915

FOR EUROPE.				
Steamer.		Displacement		Leave Hongkong
KATOHI MARU	...	30,000 Tons	...	Thurs., 1st July
KAMO	...	16,000 "	...	15th July
KASHIMA	...	20,000 "	...	29th July
NISHIMA	...	16,000 "	...	12th Aug

FOR AMERICA.					
TAMBA MARU...	...	12 507 Tons	...	...	Tues., 29th June
YOKOHAMA, "	...	12 507 "	...	...	Thurs., 8th July

SADO	"	...	...	12,500	"	...	...	...	Dec., 27th July
AWA	"	...	...	13,500	"	...	...	...	10th Aug.

For Further Information as to Freight, Sailing, &c., apply to.—
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FOR
MARSEILLES AND LONDON
TAKING PASSENGERS ALSO FOR
COLOMBO INDIA AUSTRALASIA EGYPT. &c.

Connecting Steamer	Steamers to	Leave SHANGHAI	Leave HONGKONG	Connecting Steamer from Colombo to	Due at MARSEILLE	Days

leaves	to	from	at	place	at	place
YOKOHAMA	COLOMBO	RAI	KONG	MARSEILLES and LONDON	LES	LO
p.m.		about	about Noon			

June 21	KARMA LA	...	June 28	July 2	MEDINA	...	Aug. 1	Aug. 1
	SARDINIA	...	July 12	July 17	MONGOLIA	...	Aug. 15	Aug. 15
July 19	KASHGAR	...	July 26	July 30	MALWA	...	Aug. 28	Sept. 1
	MALTA	...	Aug. 9	Aug. 14	PERZIA	...	Sept. 1	Sept. 1
Aug. 16	...	...	Aug. 23	Aug. 28	MOORE	...	Sept. 25	Oct. 1
	...	...			KARMA LA	...	Oct. 9	Oct. 9

Sept. 27	_____	Sept. 10	Sept. 10	ARLUSA	...	...	Oct. 23	O
	_____	Sept. 20	Sept. 25	ARABIA	...	...	Nov. 9	N
	_____	Oct. 4	Oct. 9	MOLDAVIA	...	...		

Passenger and cargo Steamers at COLOMBO.

Accommodation in the competing Steamer from COLOMBO is definitely reserved
Hongkong at the time of Booking.

F A R E S

The Fares to London and Marseilles are as follows:—

	LONDON
First Class "A" Accommodation Single 270	Return £185.

AY Co.	1st Saloon	"A"	Accommodation	Single	\$34.	\$95.
		"B"	"	"	\$48.	\$72.
KI.	2nd Saloon	"B"	"	"	\$44.	\$66.
		"A"	"	"	\$48.	\$72.
	1st Saloon	"A"	Accommodation	Single	\$66.	\$99.
						\$90.

3 P.M.	"B"	"	"	260.	"	"
th the	2nd Saloon	"A"	"	246.	"	\$69.
		"B"	"	242	"	\$63.

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE MAIL STEAMERS
INTERMEDIATE (NON-TRANSHIPMENT) STEAMERS WILL LEAVE FOR

LONDON

LONDON				
CARRYING 1ST AND 2ND SALOON PASSENGERS AT REDUCED RATES				
PROPOSED SAILINGS:				
STEAMERS.	Leave	Leave	Leave	Leave
				West M'CALL'S

	Y HAN.	SHANGHAI	H KONG.	S POKE.	H KANG.
about	about	about	about	about	
KARMA...	July 10	July 26	July 29 July 30	July 8 Aug 4	Aug 7 Sept. 6

10 AM.	KASHGAE	July 19	Aug. 26	Sep. 1	Sep. 7	Oct. 8	Oct. 17
	NOVABA	Aug. 16	Aug. 13	Oct. 13	Oct. 19	Nov. 7	Nov. 18
	SIMLA	Sep. 27	Oct. 7	Oct. 27	Nov. 2	Dec. 1	Dec. 11
	NANKIN	Oct. 11	Oct. 21	Nov. 10	Nov. 16	Dec. 15	Dec. 25
	NYANZA	Oct. 25	Nov. 4	Nov. 10	Nov. 16	Dec. 15	Dec. 25

10 A.M. These Steamers call also at PORT SWETENHWA, PENANG and COLOMBO.
FARES TO LONDON:
 1st Saloon 254 Single, 231 Return, 2nd Saloon 238 Single, 257 Return.
FARES TO MARSEILLES:
 1st Saloon 250 Single, 2nd Saloon 236 Single.
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